



Library
of
Phillips Academy

Accession No. Shelf No.

BEQUEST OF
R. SINGLETON PEABODY, Esq.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2013

<http://archive.org/details/robertspeabodymu1962doug>

ROBERT S. PEABODY FOUNDATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGY

ANNUAL REPORT
1962

PHILLIPS ACADEMY
Andover, Massachusetts

January 5, 1963

Mr. John M. Kemper
Clerk of the Board of Trustees
Phillips Academy
Andover, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Kemper:

It is a pleasure to present to you this report of the activities of the Robert S. Peabody Foundation for Archaeology during the year 1962. Our slow but steady progress toward completing the installation of our new exhibits has continued during the year. Finished installations are now in place in all cases in the south room. For the north room, we have completed the installation of a display illustrating cultural influences from beyond New England, and have completed research and preliminary layout of a case explaining the effects of glaciation and de-glaciation in New England. For the second floor, we have completed reinstallation of a display of material from Pecos, New Mexico, which illustrates the extent of aboriginal trade and have completed research and preliminary layout of a display of pottery from Florida intended to demonstrate shifting art forms with passing time.

Many visitors, professionals as well as laymen, have been most complimentary in their comments on the museum. The pleasing effects of our exhibitions stem from the consummate skill with which Mr. William A. Davis has completed the preliminary designs we have evolved from long and extensive research. His skill and tireless efforts have contributed much to the appearance of our displays. Our labels include a number of innovations which will not be found elsewhere; notable among Mr. Davis' developments is a method for transferring typed material to the back of a case. He has also used alphabet noodles to produce a pleasing label. By the use of a high-contrast negative film backed by sheets of theatrical gel, we have produced at moderate cost lighted labels with properly softened light.



The authority which our exhibitions carry rests on the research on which they are based. We must guard against complacency with our new exhibits and be prepared to reinstall cases as new information becomes available. Most of all, we must guard against a tendency not to criticize our exhibits in the light of newly-available data and interpretations. The Foundation must continue a reasonable program of research and publication if it is not to lose the preeminence which it has attained as the result of the efforts of the last two decades.

The museum is attracting more visitors as it becomes more generally known that attractive exhibitions are to be seen. The number of weekday visitors in summer is considerable, but with the approach of winter it declines. The number of weekend visitors is steadier for it seems to be affected by only the most inclement weather. Our visitors include more people from out of town than townspeople, and appreciable numbers of tourists in the proper season. Some visitors come expressly to have things identified; the variety of problems they bring taxes the imagination. Small children, particularly Faculty children, have come in numbers, but we decline responsibility for children unaccompanied by adults and will not substitute for a backyard jungle-gym.

Visiting scientists this year included Dr. Hans Müller-Beck, from Bern, Switzerland, who came to study our paleo-Indian material from Bull Brook.

Our cataloguing problems are slowly being eliminated. This involves disposal of improperly identified or unidentified material. Skeletal material has, by a long-standing agreement, been sent to the Peabody Museum of Harvard, where it can serve a more useful purpose than it can here. The large library of skeletal material at Harvard lacks representation from New England; our specimens help to fill that gap.

Two research projects undertaken in past years and now working toward completion include the Andover-Harvard Yukon Expedition and the Cape Cod

Project. Preparation of the Yukon report is well under way. It combines botanical and archaeological research in what should be a significant contribution. Dr. Hugh M. Raup of the Harvard Forest has submitted the first draft of a section dealing with the physiography and botany of the region. Mr. Johnson's task was to incorporate in this the archaeological discoveries. Much of this has been completed. Because Dr. Elmer Harp, of Dartmouth College, has recently assumed new duties he has asked to be relieved of responsibility for the ethnological aspect of the report. Mr. Johnson will therefore contribute a section treating the proto-historic and historic inhabitants of the Yukon drainage. All archaeological specimens have been photographed, and plates have been prepared for reproduction. However, the services of an artist will be required for the preparation of maps. The final assembling and editing must then be completed before the manuscript can be sent to the printer.

Mr. Johnson has also continued work on his study of the aboriginal occupation of Cape Cod. He has prepared certain sections of his manuscript and has continued with field work in a modest way, excavating test pits in three stratified sites. Recent creation of the Cape Cod National Seashore has meant that many sites are now protected from destruction by curio-hunters and relic collectors. It is gratifying to report that the work carried out by Mr. Johnson and his associate, Mr. Ross Moffett has been of the greatest importance to the Park Service in that it has supplied information regarding the location, condition, and importance of sites within the Park. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Moffett are actively cooperating with the Park Service and assisting with plans for the development of the recreational aspects, especially that part which involves interpretation of the physiography and natural history of the area.

One research project which is not so far advanced is the analysis of collections from sites in Maine. The analysis of the collections from

Ellsworth Falls has been so frequently interrupted by other demands on time and space that it has been side-tracked. Work on this project has been resumed, but it is still a long way from the stage at which even a preliminary manuscript can be prepared.

Continuing research projects and new research projects comprise a wide range of interests. That which is most broadly conceived and of possibly the greatest significance to American prehistory is the Tehuacan Archaeological-Botanical Project, under direct of Richard Stockton MacNeish, Research Associate of the Robert S. Peabody Foundation. Generous grants from the National Science Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation have made this project possible. Dr. MacNeish is now starting the third field season under continuation grants made to the Peabody Foundation by the National Science Foundation which will maintain this research for the third and fourth seasons.

The Tehuacan Chronology Project conducted by Mr. Frederick Johnson, and supported by grants from the National Science Foundation is designed to develop a chronology for the Tehuacan Valley which will support and provide a background for results of the Tehuacan Archaeological-Botanical Project. It should result in an absolute time scale which will be of fundamental importance to the pre-history of Middle America and ultimately to that of North and South America. Preliminary results indicate that a wide range of radio-carbon dates may sometimes be obtained from what has been assumed to be a single homogeneous deposit, possibly as the result of the mixing of cave deposits in ancient times, or for some other reason. Because this condition may arise, it has been necessary to exercise the greatest care in the selection of samples for analysis. The evaluation of the validity of the dates obtained, and the interpretation of their significance may, on occasions, dictate a searching reanalysis of archaeological data and may in this way affect markedly the archaeological interpretations of some sites.

The second season at Tehuacan was completed with spectacular success and discussed in the Second Annual Report, published in September. Excavations have uncovered deposits that span the last 10,000 years of history in the Tehuacan Valley with only minor interruptions in the continuity of the column. It appears that at last a succession from a truly wild ancestor of corn can be demonstrated, and that valuable data bearing on the origin of other native American crops and on aboriginal diet have also been obtained. Some of this information has been gathered by macroscopic examination of excavated material; other extremely significant data have been obtained as a result of microscopic scrutiny. Under the direction of Dr. Eric O. Callen, Mac Donald College, Ste. Anne de Bellevue, P.Q., a study of feces preserved in dry caves is yielding illuminating data on diet. This work continues in 1963. The Project now has data regarding seasonal movements, settlement patterns, and population growth over ten millenia of Mexican prehistory.

The third field season, now getting under way, is to be devoted primarily to the analysis of collections already obtained. It is certain that minor excavation will be needed in order to tie together some loose ends, and to clarify some interrelationships. It is also anticipated that some excavation may be required in a site that may shed considerable light on the genesis of the potter's art in the Tehuacan Valley and in southern Mexico as well. As yet, clear local evidence of the earliest stages of this craft is lacking from the sequence. The season will be largely devoted to analysis of collections and correlation of data, with collaboration by specialists in pertinent fields.

Dr. Lawrence Kaplan of Roosevelt College, Chicago, has spent some time in Tehuacan studying the beans found in archaeological deposits. His research bears directly on theories regarding the development of this staple food of aboriginal America.

Dr. Robert J. Drake of the University of British Columbia is preparing a

study of the shells which are found in surprising number in the arid desert environment of the Tehuacan Valley.

Botanical studies carried on by Dr. C. Earle Smith, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, Maryland have already resulted in two manuscripts submitted to the Chicago Museum of Natural History, and now in press--"The Flora of Tehuacan," and "The Agriculture, Past and Present, of Tehuacan." Research for these papers was carried out while Dr. Smith was on the staff of the Chicago Museum of Natural History. A manuscript treating the more archaeological aspects of his studies is being prepared for inclusion in the Reports of the Tehuacan Project to be published by the Peabody Foundation.

Studies of archaeological remains of squashes, pumpkins and gourds by Dr. Hugh C. Cutler, Missouri Botanical Garden, and Dr. Thomas W. Whitaker, Senior Research Geneticist, U. S. Department of Agriculture, are progressing favorably and will soon result in a manuscript. Preliminary studies indicate that squashes may have been among the first American plants to be domesticated. Identification of some seeds as those of a hybrid squash hints at contacts between Mexico and South America at a time much more remote than archaeologists had been willing to concede.

Studies of corn and related highland grasses are being undertaken by a team of specialists that includes Drs. Paul C. Manglesdorf and Walton O. Galinat, of Harvard University, and Drs. Edward J. Wellhausen and William H. Hatheway (P.A. '41) of the Rockefeller Foundation. From caves dug by the Tehuacan Project has come true wild corn. Preliminary studies show that it was given preferential treatment so that size and yield increased. Conservatism impelled people of the Tehuacan Valley to grow their own strain of locally improved wild corn for a thousand years until corn of the chapalote strain was introduced from some unidentified outside source a few centuries before the birth of Christ. Crosses between the two occurred immediately. Indigenous corn continued, perhaps as a

weed, for another millenium.

We have already mentioned Mr. Johnson's research under the Tehuacan Chronology Project. A continuation grant, made to the Peabody Foundation by the National Science Foundation, supports this important project for another year. During February and early March, Mr. Johnson was in the field at Tehuacan giving basic training in the technique of collecting samples for radiocarbon dating. He also explained to the field parties the necessity of avoiding contamination of the sample and of being certain that steps were taken to collect a sample that had not been contaminated in prehistoric times. During his stay at Tehuacan, Mr. Johnson collected approximately fifty radiocarbon samples; Dr. MacNeish brought back nearly 100 more samples in June. Dates for 46 samples have been determined and have been subjected to very preliminary analysis. An additional lot of 21 samples has been sent away for processing. Certain problems in interpretation of irregularities in sequences of strata have developed. These will necessitate further study and further sampling. In spite of these circumstances, a consistent chronology appears to be developing. It is still far too early to make any statements about the dates which have been obtained.

During August, the 35th Congress of Americanists met in Mexico City. One entire morning session was devoted to the Tehuacan Project, of the Robert S. Peabody Foundation of Phillips Academy. Mr. Byers gave the first paper, providing the background and geographical setting. He was followed by Dr. Melvin L. Fowler, Southern Illinois University, Dr. C. Earle Smith, Mr. Fredrick A. Peterson and Miss Antoinette Nelken, of the Tehuacan Project, and Dr. R. S. MacNeish. It is a pleasure to report that this was one of the best-attended sessions of the Congress, and that it was given a most enthusiastic response.

Mr. Byers attended the Congress not only to participate in the Tehuacan Symposium, but also to present a paper entitled "Two Textile Fragments and Some

Copper Objects from Etowah," based on his preparation of specimens from the Etowah site for display in the south room of the Foundation's museum.

By invitation from Dr. Juan Armenta, Mr. Byers went to Mexico before the Congress opened in order to join an international party of North American, South American and Mexican archaeologists and geologists who examined the sites at which there have been discoveries of stone tools associated with or imbedded in bones of extinct Pleistocene animals such as mastodon, horse, camel and mammoth. These discoveries together with discoveries of bones of such animals bearing scars of butchering have precipitated considerable controversy as it has been alleged that they indicate that man was present in the valley of Puebla some 30,000 years ago. The way in which tools and bones became associated is not clear, nor has it been possible to determine whether the bones which show the scars of stone tools were cut while the bones were fresh or long after the animals had died. Dating has so far been on geological and paleontological grounds, and is therefore only an estimate.

Following the field excursion to the sites around Puebla, and following the meetings of the Congress of Americanists, Mr. Byers led parties including scientists from Europe, South America, and North America to sites in the Tehuacan Valley which had been excavated by the Project. All expressed the greatest interest in the excavations and the extraordinary material which has been found in them.

One additional field problem remains to be undertaken. During the spring of 1962, there was news that paleo-Indian remains had been discovered in Nova Scotia. It had previously been believed that these early occupants of the New World had been barred from the Maritime Provinces by glacial ice. Mr. Byers made a rapid reconnaissance in June. In September, Dr. MacNeish in his capacity as Senior Archaeologist, National Museum of Canada joined Mr. Byers in Halifax and together they reexamined the site in the company of Dr. William F.

Take, Geologist, Nova Scotia Museum. As a result of discussions and examinations of the locality, Mr. Byers and Dr. MacNeish drew plans for a project to carry on excavations in search of data regarding the aboriginal inhabitants and their situation with respect to episodes in the development of the present topography.

Together, Messers Byers and MacNeish discussed the project with Dr. Donald Crowdis, Director, Nova Scotia Museum, and drew up a tentative schedule and budget for anticipated field research. Subsequently, all conferred with officers of the Atlantic Command Headquarters because the finds have been made within the limits of an Army camp. These gentlemen proved most cooperative and helpful.

The several discussions crystallized plans for a joint project of the Robert S. Peabody Foundation, the National Museum of Canada, and the Nova Scotia Museum, under the direction of Mr. Byers, with support and personnel supplied by Canadian institutions. Proposals to support this undertaking have been included in the budgets of the Canadian institutions; we have received word that final approval of participation by the Canadian National Museum has been granted.

We have already referred to approaching publication of the results of research carried on by the Andover-Harvard Yukon Expedition. It is proposed to publish this manuscript with funds already granted to the expedition, and held in reserve especially for publication. Expenses of publishing the results of field research on Cape Cod will be charged to the Reserve for Publishing Current Work set aside by the Robert S. Peabody Foundation. The First Annual Report, and the Second Annual Report of the Tehuacan Project were published with Peabody Foundation funds. Publication of these reports so promptly after the close of each field season has excited favorable comment from many sources. Publication of the final reports of the Tehuacan Project will depend on further

grants for this purpose from the Office of Scientific Information of the National Science Foundation, but application for such a grant cannot be made until a manuscript is in hand.

We have already mentioned some field work in passing, including Mr. Johnson's work on Cape Cod and at Tehuacan, and Mr. Byers' trips to Nova Scotia to examine the paleo-Indian site and to Mexico for examination of ancient sites, and for attendance at the 35th Congress of Americanists. In addition, Mr. Byers went to Mexico in March in order to confer with several officials in the Mexican government whose good will ensures the smooth operation of the Tehuacan project, the ready issuance of permits to excavate and to take from Mexico such small type collections as may be desired. At the same time, he visited Tehuacan and he and Mrs. Byers participated actively in the excavation of one sector of an open site.

In late April and early May, Mr. Byers and Mr. Johnson both participated in a joint field trip in southern Arizona, New Mexico, and western Texas, on which palynologists, geologists, and archaeologists visited some of the more important sites at which evidence of human occupation has been found in association with remains of extinct Pleistocene animals. Following this field trip they attended the annual meetings of the Society for American Archaeology, held at the University of Arizona, May 3-5. At this time, Mr. Byers presented a paper entitled "The Restoration and Preservation of Some Objects from Etowah." This has since been published in AMERICAN ANTIQUITY, Volume 28, No. 2.

Late in October, Dr. James A. Ford of the American Museum of Natural History, telephoned Mr. Byers asking for assistance in interpreting a site near Hackensack, New Jersey, at which implements of bone and stone were found in close proximity to bones of a mastodon. Accordingly, Mr. Byers and Mr. Johnson joined the excavation. It appeared as if the evidence had been all but completely destroyed by persons who had removed the mastodon bones but had not taken proper

notice of the stratigraphy of the site. Enough remained to suggest that there was no relation between the human occupation and the demise of the mastodon. Dr. Sheldon Judson very graciously came from Princeton to examine the site, and confirmed this interpretation. The experience was a most valuable one, and the discoveries were important as several new forms of bone and antler were uncovered.

From Hackensack, Mr. Byers and Mr. Johnson went to Tuscaloosa, Alabama and Moundville, to attend the Southeastern Archaeological Conference. This was of particular interest to them since it dealt with cultures transitional between the southeastern paleo-Indian and the later occupations--the interval with which they have been trying to cope in the Northeast.

Rice Institute, Houston, invited both scientists on the staff to attend a symposium held November 9-10 in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the founding of Rice. A large proportion of practicing American archaeologists was present. It was a stimulating and productive meeting.

In December, Mr. Johnson attended the annual meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. There he presented a paper entitled "Dating Methods and American Archaeology" at an AAAS symposium called Dating Man and the Pleistocene organized by Dr. Sheldon Judson, Department of Geology, Princeton University, representing the Geological Society of America, and Dr. Ralph Solecki, Department of Anthropology, Columbia University, representing the American Anthropological Association. A number of people have requested that the paper be published, but as yet no definite plans have been made.

We have already referred to our publication of reports. These papers are distributed to interested professional personnel and institutions in the fields of archaeology and anthropology, in North and South America as well as Europe. The Foundation, in turn, receives in exchange the publications of others. Persons not on our mailing lists, and not known to be professionally interested

have purchased copies at a modest price. Income from the sale of such publications is never great, but it remains at a rather steady level. Our publication program can never be self-sustaining, and is not intended to be. This year total income from this source was \$1050 because we sold part of our small stock of older titles at prices somewhat more realistically scaled in relation to quotations in second-hand book catalogues. This income was added to our Reserve for Publishing.

Material which we have received in exchange includes serial anthropological publications of Universities and Museums. Miss Elizabeth Eades graciously demonstrates her interest in maintaining our library by allowing Mrs. Dorothy Bloom to spend one morning each week here. Thanks to this practice, continued for more than twenty years, our books are kept in order and our catalogue kept up to date. Lest the significance of this be unappreciated, we recall that when Dr. Kidder was on the staff of the Foundation he found it easier to drive to Cambridge to get a book than to find the Foundation's copy in the clutter of books in our library.

In spite of efforts to maintain the orderly growth of our library we are now approaching an impasse because of the severe limitations of space. Our library is one of a rather small number that span the growth of American archaeology. It therefore includes several complete sets of anthropological and archaeological series, and a number of sets which lack only a few numbers. Most sets are irreplaceable. With each addition to a series or the purchase of a book which we order, the problem of shelf space grows more acute, until we now do not have room for orderly shelving of books. We have had to resort to stop-gap remedies, but it seems impossible to postpone much longer the remodeling of the library and the addition of more shelf space.

We have discussed this problem from time to time, and feel that we have now reached the point at which it will be necessary to consult an architect

about possible solutions.

To our chagrin, it was pointed out only this year that through a typographical error, Mr. Peabody's name on our bookplate was misspelled. New bookplates, with his name correctly spelled, have been made up for use in place of the old ones. Miss Faith Bloom devoted a good part of her Christmas vacation to replacing bookplates.

The building, with some exceptions, seems to be in an excellent state of repair. Unfortunately, the walls in Mr. Johnson's office can hold the paint no longer and it must be done over. We shall have to look forward to exterior painting in the not too distant future, but interior paint is in good shape and should do for some time. Lighting in some portions of laboratories in the basement is not adequate to our needs, but this may be a factor of the age of the people working there. It seems wise to consider replacement of antiquated lights with modern fixtures as opportunities arise.

Our financial condition improves steadily as we gradually pay off the indebtedness incurred when the roof was repaired; gutters, valleys, and crickets replaced; and the masonry repointed in 1955. Because of the remodeling of our south room and repainting, it was not possible to liquidate this indebtedness completely. As of November 31, 1962, our Reserve for Repairs was represented by a deficit of \$5,109.54. Our Reserves for Automobile enabled us to replace the old Jeep with a far more satisfactory International Harvester Scout which has made it possible to reach places that were beyond the capabilities of the Jeep. The Reserve for the Expansion of Activities has been steadily reduced, as we had planned, in order to repay certain expenses in connection with the reinstallation of exhibitions. Our Reserve for Publishing was augmented by our annual payments and by the sale of books, so that we shall be able to pay for publications which will be prepared for the press within the year.

It seems wise at this time to consider adding to the staff a younger man

who is not only a trained archaeologist but who will be capable of conducting a course or courses in general anthropology and archaeology. It will be necessary to select such a person with great care, and it may well be that we shall not be able to find such a person for some time. We will have to compete in the salary market with tax-supported institutions which offer beginners salaries that are close to those of the senior members of the staff. In this connection it is comforting to note that estimated annual income is now increased to the point at which it is almost sufficient to take care of ordinary operating costs without need to rely on accumulated income.

It would not be proper to close this report without acknowledging to Miss Theodora George our great indebtedness to her for her contribution of orderliness to our files and our operations. Without her steadying hand it would be difficult to keep our records in such good order. She has prepared our manuscripts, prepared copy for the printer, developed films, restored pottery, identified and catalogued specimens and kept abreast of secretarial duties without hesitation or difficulty.

To Mr. William A. Davis, as we have said, goes great credit for the manner in which he has completed the tasteful installation of our exhibits. Without him it would not have been possible to complete the job.

Mr. Philip F. Watson has kept the building in sparkling condition and at the same time acted as Shipping Clerk, Messenger, and Game Warden without whose efforts visitors to the museum by the front door would sometimes need to run the gauntlet of a gallery of jeering pigeons above.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas S. Byers

Douglas S. Byers
Director

